



WORDS FROM REV ROB

Romans 8:31 If God be for us, who can be against us?

Over the past 6 years I have encountered some of the toughest times while serving in ministry and leadership positions. Watching my father as a small child, I was often motivated and hyped up to become a minister of the Gospel believing that everything was skittles and gumdrops. But as I have gotten older and more integrated in ministry, I recall a statement Dr. John said in a catalyst meeting in Tennessee. He said, "Where there is ministry, there will always be spiritual conflict." Paul dealt with much resistance, struggles, and people challenging him every day of ministry. He was right on point when giving us this word that if God is for us, than who can be against us. I remember the first time in ministry when I was knocked down by someone's words of discouragement. I remember sitting in my car crying and asking why this happened. My thoughts and emotions began to make me question God's calling for my life and wonder if this conflict is worth ministry. I remember calling my father and one of my mentors asking them to give me advice. My mentor did just that and more by telling me something that I was not ready to hear. He asked me, "What did you do wrong?" I immediately said

nothing and became defensive. As he processed the conflict with me, I started realizing I was the problem and had caused the conflict for myself because of not using good judgment or wise counsel. From this low point in my life, I became stronger understanding that I must learn from the lesson and allow God to pour in more wisdom and develop me for His leadership purpose. So this is for the youth pastor or leader that is ready to give up, has been beat up, or is going through the spiritual conflict and storm. 1- God is for you; know that He will give strength in times of need and His timing is perfect. 2- Storms, tribulations, and spiritual conflicts will make you better equipped to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 3- Pain may last for the night, but Joy comes in the morning. Stay encouraged youth leaders and ministers. We all have our lows, but seeing those young people receive Salvation, accept callings, being delivered from bondage makes youth ministry worth it. No matter what you may face, know that God is greater, stronger, and higher than any other.

Robbie Boyd, VA Youth Director.

camp lowman
YHT
Aug. 23-25

youth
harvest
trainiing

Friday
03:00 register,
05:30 dinner,
07:00 session one

Saturday
08:30 breakfast,
10:00 session two
12:30 lunch
01:45 final session

Optional
05:30 dinner
07:00 revival service
late night fellowship
and brainstorming

Sunday
08:30 breakfast
and return home
safe

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FROM THE TRENCHES OF YOUTH MINISTRY | win anderson

A few years back I met Trevor and Aileen Reid, Co-Directors of Youth at the International Offices of Church of God of Prophecy. They shared their vision of Reach, Raise, Release. You may remember, they were so passionate about this vision that you could not help but be swept up in it. Reach the lost, Raise them up and then Release them to go and serve the Lord. Of course that is a paraphrase but you get the picture. This conversation impacted me so much that I began to ponder different ways this would work. See I am somewhat ADD maybe ADHD, not officially but rather self-diagnosed; so my thoughts and energies are sometimes scattered. Look at the pretty butterfly...huh? Wait! Sorry. BTTS... This made it a challenge for me to put together a ministry that would produce systematical success. "WHAT IS THAT? I just want to serve the Lord" you say? Great, me too, but always striving for excellence. So, the question I asked was "If I had only a short time with someone, say a few years, what would I want them to know?" AND, as it turns out many youth ministers asked themselves that same question. So here's the skinny; I found a great resource in Andy Stanley's "7 Checkpoints." Where, yep you guess it, he asked the same question. After pondering this question he sets up

kind of an outline for the things every Christ follower should know. Kind of a before you blow yourself up with these fireworks read the direction sort of stuff. Only this time you get to keep your fingers. SO I asked myself, "Self, what do you want every person that meets you (Self) to know?" I answered myself. "That God loves them." Ok right BUT what does that mean to a 14 year old who's consumed with him or herself... "COOL I'm lovable" NOOOOO. There is way more to it than that. So The book lays out 7 principles every teenager...(ANYONE) needs to know, at minimum. Sounds nice right? Well this resource has changed my

ministry immensely. This resource does not discount your vision or the power of the Holy Spirit. In fact, it counts on you being serious about being called out to minister to young people. Basically, youth pastors must be aware of our culture to communicate what is timeless. It's not our talent or skill set, it is the Spirit of God who resides in us that makes us relevant. But direction is a good thing.

Youth pastors are really good at getting attention. Lights, sound effects, bald guys jumping up and down sweating with some FREEE STUFFFFFFF, video projectors, games, food etc... All these things are great but at the end of it all did we commune with God. That is all that really matters. It is true that we are competing with the likes of MTV, Jerry Springer and Hollywood calamities. When the dust settles, what is the content of what we do? ITS GOD. That is the only content that matters is God. Now the context of it all is between you, the Youth Pastor, and God! That's why he called you out. He has burdened you with all the situational ministry you need. Can I get an AMEN?

So here the list from "The 7 Checkpoints"

- #1 Authentic Faith: Trust God
- #2 Spiritual Disciplines: See as God Sees and Do as God Does
- #3 Moral Boundaries: Paving the Way for Intimacy
- #4 Meaningful Friendships: Determine the Quality and Direction of Our Lives
- #5 Wise Choices: Walk Wise in a Foolish World
- #6 Ultimate Authority: Freedom
- #7 Others First: Others Before You

What I can say is, we are called to disciple those among us. Being focused on solid Godly principles is what we all aim for right? The content is the same every year, but the context changes every year. We are not telling the same old stories and singing the same old songs. We are living and breathing in the word of God which moves and is active and is never stalle but always refreshing and relevant. I have seen much fruit by having a direction. Maybe through prayer and a good read you will find this to be a great resource for you.

Win Anderson
Youth Pastor Family Harvest Church
Suffolk VA

"See
as God sees
and do as God
does."

Upcoming Events:

- May 11 Dan River District Youth Rally
- May 31-June 2 Hot Shot Camp (Ages 4-7)
- June 20-23 Junior Camp (Ages 8-10)
- June 23-28 Senior High Camp
- July 7-12 Senior Camp (Ages 11-13)
- July 31-August 3 State Convention - Hotel Roanoke
- October 4-6 Fall Refuel